REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed January 6, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, Applicants present claim amendments and submit the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-19, 21-24, 26-42, 44, 45, 47-51 and 53-56 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 22, 40, 44, and 49 are amended herein, and claims 2, 9, 16, 20, 25, 43, 46 and 52 have been cancelled. The application as presented is believed to be in allowable condition.

Applicants' attorneys appreciate the courtesies extended by Primary Examiner Metjahic and Examiner Nguyen in the March 3, 2003 telephone conference. During the telephone conference, after some discussion, the Examiners agreed that concepts embodied in some of the dependent claims (e.g., claims 2, 3, 9, 16, 20, 25, 43, 46 and 52 as filed) appear to be patentable over the prior art of record. The Examiners also conceded that a *prima facie* case of obviousness had not been made with regard to independent claims 26, 30, 37, 53 and 56. As a result, the Examiners agreed to withdraw the finality of the Office Action.

Though Applicants do not concede to the propriety of the rejections of independent claims 1, 7, 12, 17, 22, 40, 44, and 49 as set forth in the Office Action, these claims have been amended, solely to expedite prosecution, by incorporating limitations which the Examiners have indicated are patentable. In particular, each of these independent claims has been amended to incorporate limitations (from a claim depending therefrom) that are similar to those recited in former dependent claim 2 (e.g., relating to a computer system domain). Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 2, claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 9, claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 16, claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 20, claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 25, claim 40 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 43, claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 46, and claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 52. Applicants believe that the claims as amended herein are in allowable condition. Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to file one or

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more related applications directed to the subject matter of the claims prior to the amendments herein.

As discussed above, the Examiners conceded that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established with regard to independent claims 26, 30, and 37. More specifically, the Examiners indicated that these claims appear to be patentable over the references of record. Accordingly, Applicants have not amended independent claims 26, 30, and 37 herein. Similarly, the Examiners conceded that a *prima facie* case of obviousness had not been established with regard to independent claims 53 and 56, and indicated that these claims also appear to be patentable over the references of record. Accordingly, Applicants have not amended these claims.
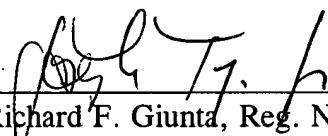
Finally, Applicants have rewritten dependent claim 11 in independent form to include the subject matter of claim 7. Although the subject matter of claim 11 was not particularly discussed during the telephone conference, Applicants believe this subject matter to be patentable over the cited art. For example, none of the references of record discloses or suggests method acts of determining if a user of at least one user interface is authorized to access information related to the backup activities of first and second backup storage systems, and determining if the user interface is authorized to receive information requested by an authorized user. For at least these reasons, claim 11 as amended is believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey PHILLIPS et al., Applicants

By:_____
Richard F. Giunta, Reg. No. 36,149
Joseph Teja, Jr., Reg. No. 45,157
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
Tel. (617) 720-3500

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MARKED-UP CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a plurality of backup storage systems including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client; and

at least one user interface, coupled to at least the first and second backup storage systems, to receive information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

wherein the plurality of backup storage systems includes a third backup storage system to backup information stored on at least one client, the third backup storage system being coupled to the at least one user interface; and

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and the at least one user interface, the at least one domain excluding the third backup storage system so that the at least one user interface is not authorized to receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

7.   (Amended) In a computer system including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client, and at least one user interface coupled to the first and second backup storage systems, a method comprising an act of:

receiving, at the at least one user interface, information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

wherein the computer system further includes a third backup storage system to backup information stored on at least one client, the third backup storage system being coupled to the at least one user interface, the computer system further including at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and the at least one user interface and excludes the third backup storage system; and

wherein the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included

in the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

10.   (Amended) The method of claim [9]8, wherein the act of transmitting the information includes an act of transmitting the information relating to the backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems only within the at least one domain, so that the first and second backup storage systems do not transmit the information related to the backup activities to the third backup storage system.

11.   (Amended) [The method of claim 1,] In a computer system including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client, and at least one user interface coupled to the first and second backup storage systems, a method comprising an act of:

receiving, at the at least one user interface, information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems, wherein the act of receiving information comprises an act of:

(a) determining if a user of the at least one user interface is authorized to access information related to the backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems, and when it is determined in the act (a) that the user is authorized to access the information, the act of receiving information further comprises acts of;

(b) allowing the user to select, via the at least one user interface, a report on information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

(c) transmitting a request from the at least one user interface for information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems based on the report selected by the user;

(d) receiving the request at the first and second backup storage systems; and

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(e) determining if the at least one user interface is authorized to receive information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems; and

when it is determined in the act (e) that the at least one user interface is authorized to receive the information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems, the act of receiving information further comprises acts of:

(f) transmitting the information related to backup activities from the first and second backup storage systems to the at least one user interface; and

(g) making the transmitted information available to the user via the at least one user interface.

12.   (Amended) In a computer system including at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, a method comprising an act of:

receiving information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system at the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup storage system and the at least one user interface; wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

17.   (Amended) A user interface for use in a computer system having at least one backup

storage system, the at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one

client, the user interface comprising:

at least one controller, to be coupled to the at least one backup storage system, to

receive information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system over a

path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup storage

system and the user interface; wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a

second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup

storage system and the user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

the controller receives only information related to backup activities of backup storage

systems included in the at least one domain, so that the user interface does not receive

information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

22.   (Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a program for execution on a

computer system that includes at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system

to store backup data from at least one client, the program, when executed on the computer

system, performing a method comprising an act of:

receiving information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage

system at the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting

information between the at least one backup storage system and the at least one user interface;

wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a

second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup

storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage

system; and

the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

40.   (Amended) In a computer system having at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, a method comprising an act of:

transmitting information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup system and the at least one user interface;

wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system, wherein the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system within the at least one domain, so that the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system is not transmitted to the second backup storage system.

44.   (Amended) A first backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, the first backup storage system for use in a computer system having at least one user interface, the first backup storage system comprising:

at least one controller to transmit information related to backup activities of the first backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface;

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wherein the computer system includes a second backup storage system, and at least one domain that includes the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the at least one controller transmits the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the at least one controller does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to the second backup storage system.

49.   (Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a program for execution on a computer system that includes at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store data from at least one client, the program, when executed on the computer system, performing a method comprising an act of:

transmitting information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup system and the at least one user interface;

wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system, wherein the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to backup activities of the first backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the first backup storage system does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to the second backup storage system.